

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling image acquisition devices associated with a client, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (a) ~~providing a client communicating with a server using a presentation level protocol, said client executing~~ selecting a proxy application from a plurality of proxy applications executing on a client communicating with a server via a presentation-level protocol, the selected proxy application associated with an application executing on ~~the~~ server;
- (b) receiving by said proxy application, ~~from the server via a network~~, a command directed to an image-acquisition device associated with the client;
- (c) issuing the received command to the associated image acquisition device;
- (d) receiving, from the image-acquisition device, a response to the issued command, the response comprising an acquired image; and
- (e) transmitting to the server over via the network using a presentation-level protocol, the received response.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a command directed to an image-acquisition device further ~~step (b)~~ comprises receiving the command sent by the, ~~from a server over via a network using a presentation-level protocol selected from the group consisting of ICA, RDP and XWINDOWS, a command directed to an image acquisition device associated with a client~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein issuing the received command further ~~step (e)~~ comprises issuing to the image-acquisition device a TWAIN API call based on the received command.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein issuing the received command further step (e) comprises issuing to the image-acquisition device a device driver call based on the received command.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein issuing the received command further step (e) comprises directly issuing to the image-acquisition device a command based on the received command.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein issuing the received command further step (e) comprises issuing to the associated image-acquisition device a command based on the received command, the issued command including an indication to suppress display of a dialog box to a user.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising ~~the step of~~ displaying a second dialog box to a user in lieu of the suppressed dialog box.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, from a second server via the network, a second command directed to the image-acquisition device associated with the client.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, from the server via the network, a second command directed to a second image-acquisition device associated with the client.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, from a second server via the network, a second command directed to a second image-acquisition device associated with the client.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the response to the issued command further step (d) comprises receiving, from the image-acquisition device, data representing an image.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein transmitting to the server further step ~~(e)~~comprises: ~~(e-1)~~ transmitting to the server compressed image data.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein transmitting to the server further step ~~(e)~~comprises: ~~(e-1)~~ determining that the image data includes ~~e~~comprises more than one bit for each pixel location prior to transmitting the compressed image data to the server.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein determining further step ~~(e-2)~~ comprises:

~~(e-2-1)~~ compressing the image data using a first compression algorithm to form first compressed image data;

~~(e-2-2)~~ compressing the image data using a second compression algorithm to form second compressed image data; and

~~(e-2-3)~~ selecting for transmission the smaller of the first compressed image data and the second compressed image data.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising ~~the step of~~ compressing compressed image data during transmission to the server.

receiving, from the image-acquisition device, a response to the issued command, the response comprising an acquired image; and

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, ~~before step (d), the step of~~ receiving, prior to receiving a response to the issued command, input from a user of the client; and

determining, prior to receiving a response to the issued command, whether to transmit the received input to the server.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely controlling an image acquisition apparatus associated with a client, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving, by a server from a client associated with an image acquisition device, via a network, an image acquisition event comprising an image acquired from the image acquisition device;

providing the received event to an application program associated with the event; receiving, by the server from the application program, a response to the provided event; ~~and~~ transmitting, by the server via the network, the received response to the client; selecting a proxy application from a plurality of proxy applications executing on the client, the selected proxy application associated with the application program, ~~said proxy application executing on the client; and~~ issuing the received response to the selected proxy application.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein providing the received event further ~~step (b)~~ comprises:

~~(b-1)~~ determining, from the received event, an application program associated with the received event; and
~~(b-2)~~ providing the received event to the determined application program.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein receiving a response to the provided event further ~~step (c)~~ comprises receiving, via a network, an intercepted TWAIN API call.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising ~~the step of:~~ receiving, from a client via a network, data representing an image acquired by apparatus associated with the client.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising ~~the step of:~~ decompressing the received image acquisition data.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising: receiving an image acquisition event from a second client via the network.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising ~~the step of~~: providing the image acquisition event received from the second client to a second instance of an application program associated with the event.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~An article of manufacture having embodied thereon A computer-readable program having instructions executable by a processor to control means for controlling~~ image acquisition devices associated with a client, said client communicating with a server using a presentation-level protocol, said client further executing a proxy application associated with a Twain application executing on a server, the ~~computer-readable program article of manufacture~~ comprising:

~~computer readable program means instructions~~ for receiving, from the server via a network, a command directed to an image acquisition device associated with the client;

~~instructions for selecting a proxy application from a plurality of proxy applications executing on the associated image-acquisition device;~~

~~computer readable program means instructions~~ for issuing the received command to the ~~selected~~ proxy application executing on the associated image-acquisition device;

~~computer readable program means instructions~~ for receiving, from the image-acquisition device, a response to the issued received command, the response comprising an image; and

~~computer readable program means instructions~~ for transmitting to the server via the network , the received response.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable program article of manufacture~~ of claim 24 wherein ~~instructions the computer readable program means~~ for receiving a command directed to an image-acquisition device further comprises: ~~computer readable program means instructions~~ for receiving, from a server via a network using a protocol selected from the group consisting of ICA, RDP and X-WINDOWS, a command directed to an image-acquisition device associated with a client.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable program article of manufacture~~ of claim 24 wherein ~~instructions the computer readable program means~~ for issuing the received command to the associated image-acquisition device further comprises: ~~computer readable program means~~

instructions for issuing to the image-acquisition device a TWAIN API call based on the received command.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling image acquisition devices communicating with a client, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving, by a client, a command from a server directed to an image acquisition device communicating with the a-client;

selecting a proxy application from a plurality of proxy applications executing on the client and forwarding the received command to the selected proxy application, the selected proxy application forwarding the received command to the image-acquisition device;

issuing a TWAIN API call, based on the received command, to the image-acquisition device communicating with the client;

receiving, from the image-acquisition device, a response to the issued command, the response comprising an image; and

transmitting, over the network to the server the received response.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein issuing a TWAIN API call further step (b) comprises issuing to the image-acquisition device a device driver call based on the received command.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein issuing a TWAIN API call further step (b) comprises directly issuing to the image-acquisition device a command based on the received command.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein issuing a TWAIN API call further step (b) comprises issuing to the associated image-acquisition device a command based on the received command, the issued command including an indication to suppress display of a dialog box to a user.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising ~~the step of~~ displaying a second dialog box to a user in lieu of the suppressed dialog box.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, from a second server via the a-network using a presentation-level protocol, a second command directed to the image-acquisition device associated with the client.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, from the server, a second command directed to a second image-acquisition device associated with the client.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, from a second server via a network, a second command directed to a second image-acquisition device associated with the client.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein receiving a response to the issued command further step (e) comprises receiving, from the image-acquisition device, data representing an image.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein transmitting to the server further step (d) comprises:

~~(d-1)~~ determining that the image data comprises one bit for each pixel location; and
~~(d-2)~~ transmitting to the server, via the a-network using a presentation-level protocol, the image data.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein transmitting to the server further step (d) comprises:

~~(d-1)~~ determining that the image data comprises more than one bit for each pixel location;
~~(d-2)~~ compressing the image data; and
~~(d-3)~~ transmitting to the server the compressed image data via the a-network using a presentation-level protocol.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein compressing the image data further ~~step (d-2)~~ comprises:

- ~~(d-2-1)~~ compressing the image data using a first compression algorithm to form first compressed image data;
- ~~(d-2-2)~~ compressing the image data using a second compression algorithm to form second compressed image data; and
- ~~(d-2-3)~~ selecting for transmission the smaller of the first compressed image data and the second compressed image data.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 further comprising ~~the step of compressing~~ compressed image data during transmission to the server.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising, ~~before step (e), the steps of:~~

receiving, prior to receiving a response to the issued command, input from a user of the client; and

determining, prior to receiving a response to the issued command, whether to transmit the received input to the server.